

LIFEWORDS

Lifewords Prayer, October 2024

*You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NIV)

Prayer is vital to everything we do. We want to follow Jesus' example and connect with God; to ask for peace, transformation, salvation; and to pray for the impact of Lifewords work around the world. Please join us as we pray this month.

29 September – 5 October

Little Book of Advent

Soon to be in stock, our new resource, *Little Book of Advent*, takes the reader on a journey of reflection in the lead up to Christmas. "*Little Book of Advent* is an invitation to actively wait for the coming of Jesus, to witness the fulfilment of his life, and to anticipate his return," says Kris Calver from Lifewords. With supporting online material, the resource is designed to help churches and congregations share the season and story together, and with their community.

All over the UK, churches and communities are starting to prepare their Christmas outreach and services – *Little Book of Advent* is a great resource to help people engage with this time of waiting, reflection, and celebration. "Advent and Christmas bring the highest attendance in church, and we seize the opportunity to let everybody leave with a [Lifewords] booklet as a memento of their visit," says Helen Buchanan, from St Paul's Church in Macclesfield. "The great thing about giving a booklet is that whenever the person finds themselves on their own, they have something they can hold in their hands – support and hope."

>> Visit www.lifewords.global/christmas to find out more and order copies of *Little Book of Advent* and other resources from our Christmas range.

Pray with us

Give thanks for a new resource and a new addition to the Little Books range. Praise God for the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Advent.

Pray for individuals, churches, and communities as they gear up for sharing God's message of hope during the Christmas season.

6–12 October

Beautiful Words

Since 2017, Lifewords has held out a diverse and creative invitation for people to explore the beatitudes through NINE BEATS and Ninefold Path. The beatitudes offer a radical alternative to the broken systems of the world around us. They are a counter-cultural narrative for our times. A call for people to live life in the Way of Jesus. Not only are we sharing the beatitudes, but we

are reaching many who do not yet realise that the Bible sees them as “blessed” – even when the world might say different. NINE BEATS helps people from all walks of life to access these and wider Scriptures.

Lifewords has also produced a range of resources for individuals, groups, churches, faith communities and more. The Ninefold Path is a nine-week curriculum / Bible study that can be used church-wide, in small groups, or as an individual spiritual discipline. Many have found it transformative and challenging, drawing them closer to Jesus.

>> This text is taken from a longer article in *Interact* magazine – read the full article at www.lifewords.global/get-involved/interact.

>> Check out our Instagram, @versefirst, to see how others are engaging with the beatitudes.

Pray with us

Give thanks for the ongoing and developing work of NINE BEATS and Ninefold Path. Praise God for the way in which these resources are reaching new audiences and contexts.

Pray for our current NINE BEATS initiative in partnership with our digital platform, VerseFirst – up until December, we are inviting Instagrammers to engage with the beatitudes and create their own content in response.

13–19 October

Community, chaos and summer camps

Earlier this year, we launched our Little Brick of Little Books – a brand-new tool for ministries that need quality, Bible-centred resources that people will read, re-read, and keep. Clare Doughty from Lifewords took a Little Brick to a youth camp she was leading on this summer:

“Every day I ran the ‘super chill’ option during the afternoon, giving the young people the chance to take a break from the higher energy activities and relax, do something crafty, play a game, or read. Alongside the friendship bracelets, board games, macramé and clay sat the Little Brick, and many young people were intrigued by this vibrant and exciting resource. One camper, who was heading to university at the end of the summer, took one of each Little Book. She wanted to decorate her student room with the Bible verses that the Little Books held.

“Another youth leader recognised the Little Books instantly. She shared that, when she was going through a really hard time as a student, a friend had sent her copies of *Little Book of Chaos*, a resource which focusses on the experience of mental illness, and that it had brought her great comfort. Since then, she has been sharing copies of *Little Book of Chaos* with other friends who are in difficult seasons of life.”

>> Read Clare’s full blog post at www.lifewords.global/blog/community-chaos-summer-camps.

Pray with us

Give thanks for the Little Brick of Little Books and for how it is supporting ministries all over the UK.

Pray for those who read and took away a Little Book, that they would continue to be inspired and feel supported by the words of the Bible at university, school, and in the workplace.

20–26 October

New opportunities in Indonesia

For the last five years, Indonesia has been in the process of moving its capital city from Jakarta to Nusantara. Jakarta has become crowded, polluted, and is sinking due to the over-extraction of groundwater and its location on swampy land. Gunar Sahari explains how Lifeworlds is using the establishment of this new city as an opportunity for mission:

“We are conducting ministry to various locations where servants of God are serving around the new national capital in East Kalimantan. The ‘mobile mission’ to Indonesia's new capital, Nusantara, focuses on supporting the development of this important city. The mission provides essential resources and support to these areas, collaborating with the local communities to improve living conditions and offer services such as clean water, healthcare, and education to help the community thrive. This mission is a crucial component of the plan to establish Nusantara as a successful and sustainable new capital for Indonesia.”

Gunar and the “mobile mission” team travelled to various locations, meeting with pastors and church leaders for prayer, training and support. “The training included sessions for discussion, sharing experiences, and praying together,” says Gunar. “The focus was on learning how to share the gospel effectively. Participants talked about different ways to spread the message and supported each other with advice and prayers. This time together helped everyone feel more prepared and confident in their mission to share their faith.”

Pray with us

Pray for Indonesia in this period of transition. Pray for Gunar and the team as they continue to support the ever-growing network of pastors and church leaders who are using Lifeworlds resources to share good news.

27 October – 2 November

Pavement Project in Guinea-Bissau

Last year, Pavement Project launched in the small country of Guinea-Bissau on the coast of West Africa. Marli Santos Oliveira, a Brazilian missionary working with Evangelical Missionary Linguistic Association / Wycliffe talks about how she and others are seeing children impacted by God’s Word:

“Guinea-Bissau has an estimated population of almost two million inhabitants made up of a diversity of ethnic groups, each with its own religious rituals, ethics, festivals, and culture.

“In one Pavement Project counselling session, I met Lúcia*, who told me about a leader in her community who is revered to have spiritual knowledge and power. For Lúcia, he was a confusing and scary figure. During the session, she told me that in her mind, the spiritual leader transforms into a black cat, appearing to her every day on the way to school. After sharing and praying, Lúcia received a Bible pocket card, and left feeling less afraid. A week later, I noticed she was different. I asked her if she was still afraid of the man, and she said: ‘Didn’t you tell me that Jesus would protect me, and I didn’t need to be afraid anymore? Every night, I read my card and put it under my pillow.’”

>> This story is taken from the latest issue of *Interact* – visit www.lifeworlds.global/get-involved/interact to read the full article.

Pray with us

Give thanks for new contexts for Pavement Project to work. Praise God for the new partner organisations and workers.

Pray that God's Word would make an impact in the lives of children and their families in Guinea-Bissau, bringing light and hope into dark places.

Thank you for praying with us! Your partnership in prayer is vital to all that we do as we share the Bible's life words around the world. You can make a donation to our work online at www.lifewords.global/donate, by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.